Enhance wildlife habitat by reducing snow deposition into existing shelterbelts

Definition
This enhancement includes the addition of native conifers and/or shrubs to existing farmstead shelterbelts to enhance wildlife escape, roosting, nesting or winter cover and food.

Purpose
Wildlife cover is often limited where cropland is the primary land use. Wildlife, having to travel farther than a maximum of ¼ mile between secure cover and a food source during winter, are highly vulnerable to predation and exposure. Enhancing the quality of existing farmstead shelterbelts adjacent to cropland will improve winter survival of resident wildlife species and provide important year-round habitat for a wide variety of migratory birds, deer, small mammals and pollinator insects.

Where Used
This enhancement may be used on one or both of the following:

1. Add 1-2 rows of native shrubs 50' upwind of existing shelterbelts to reduce snow deposition. Eligible area includes 1 rod width either side of the shrub row(s).
2. Add a minimum of two rows of native conifers on the downwind side of existing shelterbelts. Eligible area includes 1 rod width either side of the tree row(s).

NOTE: This enhancement cannot be used within ½ mile of existing native prairie or active sharp-tail grouse or prairie chicken leks.

Operation and Maintenance
Shelterbelts must be protected from livestock grazing. Long term control from herbaceous vegetation competition with planted trees/shrubs required. See MN NRCS Practice Standard 650.

Documentation Required
MN-CONS-7 "Tree and Shrub Planting Plan"

Payment Rate
The payment rate is an annual payment per acre of established and maintained shelterbelt addition.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the above information is correct and that, if requested, I will provide additional documentation to support the above information.

Signature _____ **Date** _____